

THE COMPUTER RAG
newsletter of the
Yokosuka Computer Club
July/August 1984

News, Gossip, and Inuendo from the Western Pacific

Local Gossip

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 8 at 1800, at OEC (top floor of Barracks C). YCC members are encouraged to attend and bring a guest. Among the topics to be discussed: modular programming (using LOGO). LAST MEETING: Held July 11, there were over two dozen attendees. The meeting was essentially a club business meeting, setting the direction for future YCC activities. The scheduled presentation on modular programming (using LOGO) was deferred to the August meeting.

All YCC members are requested to review the membership list distributed with the June/July newsletter, to see whether their name appears, and if the information is correct and complete. Please submit changes/corrections to any YCC Officer: President -- Lawrence Charters; Vice President -- Gary Shrout; Secretary/Treasurer -- Kurt Trichler; Newsletter Editor -- Kathleen Charters; Librarian -- Jeff Hancock. A revised membership list will be released in a future newsletter.

There was a call for presentations on 1) Apple expansion cards -- what to look for, and 2) compatibility problems between different Apple machines. Volunteers are needed to speak on these topics. The presentation can be done by an individual or by a group, so Shanghai someone! Perhaps one (or both) of the topics can be the focus of the September 12 meeting. (Note: the Navy Exchange's decision to sell Apple IIe and IIc machines will make both topics more important than ever.)

At previous YCC meetings suggestions have been made to hold two computer meetings each month, one on the second Wednesday, and one on a different day of the week. A survey was run in the May/June YCC newsletter, in an attempt to discover an alternate meeting time. The response rate was an astonishing, perfect 0.0%. Therefore, it has been arbitrarily decided that during September and October there will be YCC meetings on both the second Wednesday and third Tuesday. Attendance will determine whether it is worthwhile to hold the second meeting. Please spread the word to those computer enthusiasts that wanted to attend Wednesday YCC meetings, but were unable to do so due to schedule conflicts. No more excuses!

MONEY was a hot topic. The question had been raised as to whether there should be a special rate for people who belonged to other computer clubs and wanted to affiliate with YCC. Since YCC is the only computer club recognized by CFAY; and, as far as anyone knows, it is the only computer club that charges dues; and the dues are deliberately structured to meet the needs of the often transient members; it was decided to maintain the present system. The dues are \$15 per year (for an individual or a family) for Regular membership, or \$5 for membership and \$1 for each meeting attended to a maximum of \$10. Members of special interest groups can buy YCC membership for \$5, and if they attend only the special interest groups, there will be no further expense incurred. Special interest group newsletters may be sponsored by YCC, and thus can be printed by the Navy

Publications and Printing Service Detachment, for distribution to all YCC members.

A letter requesting a donation to the Boy Scouts of America Far East Council was reviewed, and two of the attendees graciously shared some background information as to why the donation was being sought. It was unanimously decided to make a \$30 contribution, and to offer YCC assistance in establishing contact points for those Boy Scouts working toward the Computer Merit Badge.

Other topics discussed included mailing out newsletters with First Class postage, so newsletters would be forwarded if a member has moved. If the newsletter is mailed under MPS, theoretically it should be returned if it cannot be delivered, but what has occurred is that some commands simply throw away the mail. The YCC would like to know if a member's address has changed. The possibility of setting up club excursions to Pony's, Epson, NEC, Fujitsu, and Sony was enthusiastically pursued. If you would like to help set up a club excursion, please contact one of the YCC officers.

The major topic of discussion was setting up a workshop on microcomputers. It was pointed out there were two separate issues to be addressed. One need was for "how to," "hands on" workshops. It was decided the best way to accomplish this was to widely publicize the topics for each regularly scheduled meeting, and to use a workshop format for the scheduled presentations. In addition, there could be a "Random Access" session during each meeting, in which members address computer questions to other members.

The other need was for a Computer Faire, to display and promote a variety of microcomputers to the general population. A committee was formed to do the preliminary planning for setting up a Computer Faire, probably to be held in October, in some public place such as the Community Center, Library, or Coffee House. Watch for further developments. It sounds like it will be a lot of fun for everyone!

Semi-Local Gossip

FLEET EXCHANGE APPLES: Just fifty years after the Depression, the Fleet Exchange (A-33) has started selling Apples. There appears to be some confusion as to how much stress and support the Apple will get, but if you are more interested in price alone, the Apple IIc, IIe, and Macintosh are offered at great prices.

CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE: CTC has started an Associate Degree program in microcomputer technology. As one part of the program, an introductory microcomputer course, focusing on fundamental concepts and BASIC programming, will be offered starting Aug. 20.

Somewhat Distant Gossip

SUCH A DEAL: Jack Tramiel, Commodore's founder, ex-Chairman, and ex-President, stunned the financial and high-tech communities with his June purchase of Atari. Even more shocking are some recent rumors of the purchase terms: Tramiel got the computer and video game divisions for \$240 million in I.O.U.'s -- not a penny in cash -- and Warner Brothers retained a 32% interest in the company. Tramiel also received several million dollars in options on Warner stock. By the first week of August, all but 200 Atari employees had been laid off or fired.

EPSON GENEVA: Known variously as the PX-8, Geneva, and some other odd names, Epson has released its answer to the flood of Radio Shack Model 100 and NEC 8201 notebook computers. The new machine has 64K of RAM, an 80 column by 8 line LCD display, built-in micro cassette

recorder, plus ROM cartridges containing WordStar, Portable Calc, Portable Scheduler, Microsoft BASIC, and CP/M, all for -- \$995: Peripherals include a modem, 120K RAM, a 320K 3.5" disk drive, and 80 column printer (only four pounds), all battery powered.

LASER LINK: Digital Research, the software house which CP/M built, has released Vidlink, a combination hardware and software package which allows Commodore 64 computers to link their machines to Pioneer's LD-700 Laser Disk player. Vidlink's cost is a ridiculously low \$49. Future versions are planned for the IBM PC and Apple II. FRANKLIN FILES: Franklin, which may have made as much as \$100 million with Apple clones, has filed for Chapter 11. New Apple offerings, plus Franklin's losing court fight with Apple, put the company in a tight squeeze. While Osborne and several other companies are recovering from Chapter 11, the outlook for Franklin is not as good.

Technical Notes

At the request of hundreds (well, at least four) of desperate people, here are the steps required to transfer files from a Radio Shack Model 100 to an Osborne-1, using nothing but CP/M's PIP and the 100's TELCOM package.

UPLOAD

1. On the Osborne type: STAT RDR:=PTR:<CR>
2. Make sure the Osborne RS-232 is SETUP at 300 baud.
3. Make sure Mod 100 TELCOM STAT is set at 38N2E.
4. Type on Osborne: PIP WHATEVER.TXT=RDR:[BE]
5. Run Mod 100 TELCOM TERM with UP option.
6. File should appear on Osborne screen before going to file. Fix file in WordStar by typing <control>QQ<control>B.

DOWNLOAD

1. On the Osborne type: STAT PUN:=PTP:<CR>
2. Make sure the Osborne RS-232 is SETUP at 300 baud.
3. Make sure Mod 100 TELCOM STAT is set at 38N2E.
4. Run Mod 100 TELCOM, TERM, DOWN.
5. Type on Osborne: PIP PUN:=WHATEVER.TXT[BE]
6. NOTE: You may have to prepare WordStar files by first typing:
PIP NEWFILE.TXT=OLDFILE.TXT[Z] (note "Z").

If this doesn't make sense to you, write to the Yokosuka Computer Club, DMS Box 187, FPO 98762, or call Lawrence at 234-4326.

Want Ads

Wanted: Commodore users. Millions of these have been sold on base; where are the owners? Come to the next club meeting to help form a SIG (Special Interest Group).

Wanted: Texas Instruments users. Same as above.

Wanted: dBASE II users. Jim Lee, former club President and future Macintosh owner (he doesn't know it yet), wants to meet other dBASE II users.

Wanted: Forget the Cray-1S; now need Cray-2, with 64 megabytes of memory, 124 gigabytes of magnetic and optical storage, 3-D color graphics monitor, and interface for reading Timex-Sinclair cassette tapes. Contact L.I. Charters at YCC, DMS Box 187, FPO 98762.